



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

No. 39

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Search us, O Lord, and examine us; test our minds and our hearts. Analyze our commitment to Your righteousness in the work we set out to do and to Your direction in the decisions we will make. Judge our faithfulness to Your desire for the living of our lives this day.

Test our minds that they would prove wise enough to understand the scope of our responsibility that You have laid on us as well as its limits. Enable us to discern wisely what is the faithful stewardship of resources You have charged us to manage. As war rages in Ukraine, as Türkiye and Syria emerge from earthquake devastation, and all the while our own enemies seek to exploit our vulnerabilities, the weight of our duty to speak, to act, and to wait is heavy on the shoulders of this body.

Test our hearts, that as we weigh the costs of our involvement with the many areas in dire need around the world, that we would not be found callous to the toll these atrocities have had on tens of thousands of innocents, and the inestimable damage that has been inflicted on the integrity of peace in our lifetime.

May our righteous inclination to devote ourselves to these tragedies not cause us to ignore equally urgent needs at home.

To whom much is given, much is required. May we prove faithful to the many requirements Your gracious gifts demand of us.

In Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING RICHARD AND JONI MAPLES

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard and Joni Maples, two Beardon High School graduates—my mama had them in math class—who have received this year's Helen Ross McNabb Spirit Award. This award recognizes folks who have done great work to support the McNabb Center and the east Tennessee community.

Richard and Joni were both raised by parents who taught them the values of faith, family, and hard work. They keep these values close to their hearts, and they make a constant effort to serve folks around them whenever they can.

This includes supporting the McNabb Center, which is a nonprofit that provides mental health services to east Tennesseans who need it. Richard has continuously served the McNabb Center in various board positions and campaigns since 2012 and stayed involved in a bunch of other east Tennessee organizations that serve our community.

Of course, this was all done with the unwavering help and support of his wonderful wife Joni. They are about to celebrate their 50th anniversary. I can't imagine any woman who could tolerate Richard for 50 years, but she has managed to do that.

They have raised two wonderful children, Matthew and Andrea, and now they have four wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Richard and Joni so much for serving our community with selfless dedication. I am proud to congratulate them on receiving the Spirit Award this year. They certainly deserve it. It is good to see a couple of West Knoxvilleans who have done well.

STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I know that education can be and should be a pathway to financial freedom. For over 45 million Americans facing crippling student debt, education has become an unsustainable economic burden.

Student debt is keeping Americans from buying homes, starting families, and saving for their futures. It is holding back a generation from getting the education that they need, that they want, and that they deserve. This impacts all of us. Our education suffers because of this debt. Our economy suffers, our families suffer, and our children suffer.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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